**Stem Cell Reports, Volume** *5* **Supplemental Information**

# **Conditionally Stabilized dCas9 Activator**

# **for Controlling Gene Expression**

# **in Human Cell Reprogramming and Differentiation**

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### **% GFP+ cells**



### **Figure S1. Validation of dCas9VP48 activator. Related to Figure 1.**

(A) dCas9VP48 construct was transfected together with gRNAs targeting the tetracycline response element (TRE) repeats in the Tet-ON promoter. Number of GFP+ HEK293 cells was analyzed by flow cytometry. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM, n = 3 independent transfections. Addition of doxycycline (+Dox) to activate rtTA-mediated GFP-expression was used as a positive control and non-transfected (NT) and dCas9VP48-only transfected (Mock) were used as negative controls.

(B) Representative fluorescence microscopy fields of GFP+ cells in the different conditions. Scale bars 200  $\mu$ m.



### **Figure S2. Characterization of dCasVP192 OCT4 reprogrammed iPSC. Related to Figure 2.**

(A) qRT-PCR characterization of reprogrammed iPSC clones. mRNA levels of pluripotency markers relative to H9.

(B) Episome detection PCR of DNA preparations from dCasVP192 OCT4 reprogrammed iPSC. Red arrows indicate persistent or integrated plasmids in assayed clones.



**Figure S3. Effect of small molecular compounds on human fibroblast gene activation. Related to Figure 3.**

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(A) TMP dependent *OCT4* activation in HEK293 cells expressing DDdCas9VP48 and OCT4 targeting guides. Scale bars = 400  $\mu$ m in A and C.

(B)(C) Number of OCT4 and SOX2 positive cells counted per visual field and representative immunocytochemical stainings of F72 fibroblasts expressing DDdCas9VP192 and *OCT4*, *SOX2*, *NANOG* and *LIN28A* targeting guides and treated with TMP and inhibitors. NaB = sodium butyrate, 2-PCPA = *trans*-2-Phenylcyclopropylamine (Tranylcypromine), BIX = BIX01294, SB = SB431542.

(D) Activation of *OCT4, SOX2 NANOG* and *LIN28A* by qPCR in the presence of 250 µM NaB and 4  $\mu$ M PCPA after 3 and 5 days of 1  $\mu$ M TMP treatment in F72 expressing DDdCas9VP192 and







## **Figure S4. Activation of endodermal lineage specific transcription factors by dCas9VP192 mediated transcriptional activation. Related to Figure 4.**

(A)(B) Immunocytochemical detection and qPCR analyses of indicated targeted gene products in HEK293 and F72 human foreskin fibroblasts. Analysis was performed 72 h after delivery of gRNAconcatenated plasmids and dCas9VP192. mRNA levels relative to non-treated cells, represented as mean  $\pm$  SD, n=2 for HEK293 and n=1 for F72. Scale bars = 200  $\mu$ m for all panels.

(E) Immunocytochemical detection of GATA4 in hiPSC transfected with dCas9VP192 and gRNAS. (D) Immunocytochemical detection of FOXA2 and SOX17 in hESC expressing DDdCas9VP192 and gRNAs for FOXA2, SOX17, PDX1 and NKX6.1 differentiated to definitive endoderm at day 3.

#### **Supplemental Experimental Procedures**

#### **Plasmid construction**

Catalytically inactive dCas9 was cloned by introducing H840A mutation by PCR into pX334-U6-DR-BB-DR-Cbh-NLS-hSpCas9n(D10A)-NLS-H1-shorttracr-PGK-puro (pX334) (Addgene plasmid: 42333) (Cong et al., 2013). The dCas9 construct was cloned into pX335- U6-Chimeric\_BB-CBh-hSpCas9n(D10A) (Addgene plasmid: 42335) along with PKG Puro from pX334 to create pX335-U6-Chimeric\_BB-CBh-dCas9-PGK-Puro. VP16 transactivation domain repeats were cloned from rtTA by PCR and fused C-terminally to dCas9 in pX335- U6-Chimeric\_BB-CBh-dCas9-PGK-Puro to create dCas9 transactivator constructs. T2A-GFP was fused C-terminally to dCas9VP192 and cloned into CAG-IRES-Puro backbone to create CAG-dCas9VP192-GFP-Puro construct. For episomal replicating plasmids dCas9VP192-GFP fragment was cloned from CAG-dCas9VP192-GFP-Puro into pCXLE backbone (pCXLE-hSK; Addgene plasmid: 27078; Okita et al., 2011) with EcoRI. pCXLEdCas9VP192-GFP-shp53 was cloned by inserting dCas9VP192-GFP into backbone from pCXLE-hOCT3/4-shp53-F (Addgene plasmid: 27077). pCXLE-hOCT4 was cloned form pCXLE-hOCT3/4-shp53 by removing the p53 shRNA sequence between BamHI sites. PiggyBac constructs encoding the dCas9VP192-GFP-IRES-Neo were cloned by inserting the CAG dCas9 activator between PiggyBac recombination sites in pPB-R1R2-NeoPheS (Yusa et al., Nature, 2011). Destabilized dCas9 activator was generated by PCR cloning the DHFR(DD) from pBMN DHFR(DD)-YFP (Addgene plasmid: 29352) and inserting it Nterminally in fusion with the dCas9 in the PB-CAG-dCas9VP192-GFP-IRES-Neo. MAFA overexpression construct was generated by PCR cloning the human MAFA cDNA into PBtight-ires-EmGFP backbone.

#### **Guide RNA production**

Guide RNA transcriptional units (gRNA-PCR) were prepared by PCR amplification with Phusion polymerase (ThermoFisher), using as template U6 promoter and terminator PCR products amplified from pX335 together with a guide RNA sequence-containing oligo to bridge the gap. PCR reaction contained 50 pmol forward (Fw) and reverse (Rev) primers, 2 pmol guide oligo, 5 ng U6 promoter and 5 ng terminator PCR products in a total reaction volume of  $100\mu$ l. PCR reaction program was 98C/10sec, 56C/30sec, 72C/12sec for 35 cycles. Amplified gRNA-PCRs were purified and confirmed by sequencing. When needed, alternative Fw and Rev primers were used to incorporate suitable restriction sites for gRNA-PCR concatenation.

gRNA-PCR units were concatenated using Golden Gate assembly (Cermak et al., 2011) . Destination vector GGdest-ready was generated by PCR-cloning Esp3I destination cassette from pCAG-T7-TALEN(Sangamo)-Destination (Addgene plasmid: 37184; (Hermann et al., 2014) into pGEM-4Z (Promega). Assembly reactions contained 150 ng of GGdest-ready vector, 50 ng of each gRNA-PCR product (five in total), 1 uL Esp3I (Thermo Fisher, ER0451), 2 uL T4 DNA ligase (Thermo Fisher, EL0011), 2 uL T4 ligase buffer and 2 uL DTT (10mM, Promega, V3151) in a final volume of 20 uL. Thermal cycle consisted of 50 cycles of restriction/ligation (2 min at 37°C, 5 min at 16°C) followed by enzyme inactivation step (20 min at 80ºC). Ten microliters of the reaction were transformed into DH5alpha chemical competent bacteria and plated on LB agar containing ampicillin with IPTG/X-Gal for blue/white recombinant screening. Correct concatenation of the gRNA-PCR products was confirmed by sequencing.

gRNAs concatenated into the GGdest-ready were further cloned into either EBNA or PiggyBac backbones for the different experiments.

#### **Cell transfection**

HEK293 cells were seeded on tissue culture treated 24 well plates one day prior to transfection  $(10^5 \text{ cells/well})$ . hESC and hiPSC cells were split to Matrigel-coated 24-well plates 48 hours before transfection. Cells were transfected using FuGENE HD transfection reagent (Promega) in fibroblast culture medium or E8 stem cell media with 500 ng of dCas9 transactivator encoding plasmid and 100 to 200 ng of gRNA-PCR or 500 ng gRNA-PCR. Cells were cultured for 72 hours post-transfection, after which samples were collected for FACS analysis, qRT-PCR or immunocytochemical staining.

#### **Cell electroporation**

Human skin fibroblasts were electroporated using Neon Transfection system (Life Technologies) according to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 1 million cells were electroporated in 100  $\mu$ 1 tips with 1650 V, 10 ms and 3x pulse settings. Amounts of DNA used were: 6  $\mu$ g of total plasmid consisting of 3  $\mu$ g of guide template EBNA plasmids and 3  $\mu$ g of pCXLE-dCas9VP192-GFP-shp53 per electroporation. For OCT4 replacement experiments  $2\mu$ g of pCXLE-dCas9VP192-GFP-shp53,  $2\mu$ g of OCT4 gRNA plasmid,  $1\mu$ g of pCXLE-hSK and  $1\mu$ g of pCXLE-hUL were used. For transgenic OCT4 control OCT4 gRNA plasmid was replaced with pCXLE-hOCT3/4-shp53 ( $2\mu$ g) and dCas9VP192 plasmid was replaced with pCXLE-GFP  $(2\mu g)$ . For selected inducible cell lines fibroblasts were electroporated with  $1\mu$ g of PB-transposase,  $2\mu$ g of PB-CAG-DDdCas9VP192-GFP-IRES-Neo,  $1.5\mu$  of PB-OCT4-SOX2-guides-PGK-Puro and  $1.5\mu$ g of PB-NANOG-LIN28A-guidesPGK-Puro plasmids. After electroporation cells were plated in fibroblast medium on gelatincoated tissue culture plates and selected with G418 (Roche) and puromycin (Life Technologies).

For the generation of the hESC line used in the differentiation experiments, 2 million H9 (WiCell) cells were electroporated with 2  $\mu$ g of PB-CAG-DDdCas9VP192-GFP-IRES-Neo, 1  $\mu$ g PB-FOXA2-SOX17-guides-PGK-Puro, 1  $\mu$ g PB-PDX1-NKX6.1-guides-PGK-Puro and  $1\mu$ g of PB-transposase using Neon Transfection system (1100 V, 20 ms, 2x pulses). Cells were plated onto a Matrigel coated plate with E8 medium containing 5 uM ROCK inhibitor (Y-27632 2HCl, Selleckchem). 72 h after electroporation and recovery cells were selected with G418 and puromycin.

#### **hESC differentiation to endoderm and pancreatic lineage**

hESC expansion and plating, and media used for differentiation to definitive endoderm was performed as described in Rezania et al., 2014. Briefly, confluent plates of H9 hESC cells were washed twice with PBS and incubated for 72 h in the following endoderm differentiation media: d0: MCDB131 (Life Technologies) + 2mM Glutmax (Life Technologies) + 1.5 g/L NaHCO3 (Sigma) + 0.5% BSA fV (Sigma) + 10mM final Glucose (Sigma) + 100 ng/ml Activin A (Dr Marko Hyvonen, Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge) + 3  $\mu$ M CHIR; d1: Identical to d0 but only 0.3  $\mu$ M CHIR; d2: Identical to d0 but no CHIR. After definitive endoderm stage, cells were differentiated to pancreatic progenitors as described in Rezania et al., 2014 .

#### **Immunocytochemistry**

Cells were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA), permeabilized using 0.2% Triton-x100 and blocked using Ultra V Block (Thermo Fisher). Primary antibodies were diluted in PBS containing 0.1% Tween-20 and incubated overnight in +6°C. Secondary antibody incubations were done in room temperature for half an hour. After antibody incubations, cell nuclei were stained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) or Hoechst and cells were imaged under fluorescent microscope (EVOS, Life Technologies). Primary antibodies used were: OCT4 (1:500, C30A3, Cell Signaling; 1:100, MA1-104, Thermo; 1:500, SC-8628, Santa Cruz), SOX2 (1:500, D6D9, Cell Signaling), LIN28A (1:500, D84C11, Cell Signaling; 1:100, MA1- 016, Thermo), NANOG (1:500, D73G4, Cell Signaling; 1:100, MA1-017, Thermo), Ecadherin (1:500, 610181, BD Bioscience), KLF4 (1:250, HPA002926, Sigma-Aldrich), FOXA2 (1:500, SC-9187, Santa Cruz), PDX1 (1:200, AF2419, R&D Systems), NKX6.1 (1:200, F55A10, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank), SOX17 (1:500, AF1924, R&D Systems), GATA4 (1:500, SC-1237, Santa Cruz) and MAFA (1:500, AB26405, Abcam). Secondary antibodies used were AlexaFluor 488/594: donkey anti-goat (1:500, A11055 and A11058; Invitrogen), donkey anti-mouse (1:500, A21202 and A21203; Invitrogen) and donkey anti-rabbit (1:500, A21206 and A21207; Invitrogen). For estimation of activation efficiency from immunostainings cells were manually counted from four random fields per sample.

#### **Flow cytometry**

For GFP+ flow cytometry, cells were dissociated using incubation with TrypLE Select (Life Technologies 12563029) for 5 min at 37ºC, counted and resuspended in FACS-buffer (5% FBS in PBS). Samples were run with FACSCalibur (BD Biosciences) and analyzed with CellQuest-Pro software (BD Biosciences). Non-treated cells were used as control for gating.

#### **Quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) analysis**

Gene expression was assessed using SYBR-Green based qRT-PCR, performed as previously described elsewhere (Toivonen et al., 2013). Relative expression was analysed using ΔΔCt method, with cyclophilin G (*PPIG*) as endogenous control and an exogenous positive control used as calibrator. Expression levels are relative to non-treated cells or to hESC as indicated in the figure legends.

## **Primers for qRT-PCR**



## **Primers for gRNA amplification and concatenation**

## **U6 promoter fragment PCR**



## **Terminator fragment PCR**



### **Golden Gate concatenation**



## **gRNA oligos**



pOct\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGGCACAGTGCCAGAGGTCTGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pOct\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTCTGTGGGGGACCTGCACTGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNanog1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTCCCAATTTACTGGGATTACGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNanog2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTGATTTAAAAGTTGGAAACGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNanog3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTCTAGTTCCCCACCTAGTCTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNanog4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGATTAACTGAGAATTCACAAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNanog5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCGCCAGGAGGGGTGGGTCTAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pCDH1\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGAGACAAGTCGGGGCGGACAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pCDH1\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTCAGAAAGGGCTTTTACACTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pCDH1\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTCTTAGTGAGCCACCGGCGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pCDH1\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCAGTGGAATCAGAACCGTGCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pCDH1\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGAGGGTCACCGCGTCTATGCGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pKLF4\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTCTTCGCGGGCTTCGAACCCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pKLF4\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTTCGGTCGCTGCGCGACCAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pKLF4\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGCTGCCATAGCAACGATGGAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pKLF4\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTATAAGTAAGGAACGCGCGCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pKLF4\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCGAACGTGTCTGCGGGCGCGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pLIN28\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTCTGATTGGCCAGCGCCGCCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pLIN28\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTAATTATCTGCCCGGGGGGTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pLIN28\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCGGGGTACTCAAGTCTTCTAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pLIN28\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCCCATCTCCAGTTGTGCGTGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pLIN28\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTGTCAGAGACCGGAGTTGTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pSox2\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTGTAAGGTAAGAGAGGAGAGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pSox2\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTTTACCCACTTCCTTCGAAAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pSox2\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTGGCTGGCAGGCTGGCTCTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pSox2\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCAAAACCCGGCAGCGAGGCTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pSox2\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGAGGAGCCGCCGCGCGCTGATGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pFoxA2\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGAGTGCCGAGCTGCCCCGAGGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pFoxA2\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCGCGCGGCGCGGGGGCTAGTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG

pFoxA2\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTGCGGCACTTGTCCGCTCCGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pFoxA2\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTATAGCGCGGCGCGCTGGCGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pFoxA2\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGAAATGGGCTGCCCCGGGTCTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pPdx\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGCCCCACGTGGTTCAGCCGGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pPdx\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGCCTGGCTGGCCGCACTAAGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pPdx\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGAGCAGGTGCTCGCGGGTACCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pPdx\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTTTGCTGCACACTCCTGAAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pPdx\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTTTTCGTGAGCGCCCATTTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNkx6.1\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTAGCGCACTTTGAACAGCTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNkx6.1\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGAAACTCTCCGGAGCCAGCCTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNkx6.1\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGAGGACGCCTTGTGCAGCCCGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNkx6.1\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCCGAATCTCCACTTTGAAGTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG pNkx6.1\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGCTCTGCTCTTTCGGTCGCGGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG gSox17\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGGGCGTGGGCCTAACGACGCGTTTAAGAGCTATGCTGGA gSox17\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTGGGGTTGGACTGGGACGTGTTTAAGAGCTATGCTGGA gSox17\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGCTCCGGCTAGTTTTCCCGGGTTTAAGAGCTATGCTGGA gSox17\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGTCGAGTCTCCCTAACCCCGGGTTTAAGAGCTATGCTGGA gSox17\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGGGCAAGTACGTCGATTCCAGTTTAAGAGCTATGCTGGA gGATA4\_1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGACCTCCAAGGAATCCGGGGCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG gGATA4\_2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCTCAACTCTCGATCTTGTGTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG gGATA4\_3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCAGCGAACCCAATCGACCTCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG gGATA4\_4 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGAATGCCCAAGTGCTACCGCCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG gGATA4\_5 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGCCTGTGGGAGTCACGTGCAAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG tetOp1 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGTACCTTCTCTATCACTGATGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG tetOp2 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGGACTTCTCTATCACTGATAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG tetOp3 GTGGAAAGGACGAAACACCGGGGGAGACGTGCGGCCAGCTGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAG

#### **Supplemental References**

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